

No 72

I.

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Dated March 9th
1826

Phagocytosis and wasting of a body
has within a few days been maintained to be
and can be maintained to be a common and the cause
of the Disease ^{and} Death of the animal
you can be easily detected in the excretions
"of" on, the heat of vapor taken
to meet there is a difference between the
various Malformations of the bodies of
adults which are easily distinguished
between the children ^{and} adults ^{and} the cause
is the malformations ^{and} the cause
is the author ^{by} the author ^{and} the cause
and the cause ^{and} the cause ^{and} the cause

Gustavus A. B. Horner. Va.

Excell. Mr. D.

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Phasaromus is now generally so called, by most writers, meaning a wasting and painful disease, particularly
Phasaromus, or general wasting of the body
has within a few years, been ascertained to be
produced on derangement of some one of the chy-
osomatic viscera, or of the alimentary canals.
Ayro in his excellent treatise on this complaint
observes "if the views, which I have taken
be correct there is no difference between the
Phasaromus of children, and that disorder of
adults, which may strictly be denominated
Bilious, either in the nature, the causes,
or the means of cure."
This author, therefore, considers Phasaromus
and Bilious as synonymous terms, and
comprehends under them every variety
of this disorder. adopting his plan I do
divide Phasaromus into two parts, acute
and chronic.

The chronic is distinguished by a morbidly craving appetite, and not accompanied by much fever, but in the acute form there is loss of appetite, and a considerable degree of fever.

Marasmus is met with in infancy, childhood, and adult age; I, however, shall treat of it only as it occurs in infants, and children, limiting the age of the former to two years, and that of the latter to fourteen years.

In infant. This complaint is at first attended with languor, a disposition to sleep during the day, and with restlessness at night. It takes food in the commencement with readiness, and may be soothed by it, but in a short time all appetite is lost, it cries, and becomes extremely restless. The breathing towards night is quicker, and

louder, attended by stupor, frequent startings, heat of body, and coldness of the extremities. If the infant be several months of age, and of a vigorous constitution, its bowels will frequently become loose, and the appetite continue natural. The stools vary much, being sometimes of a yellowish green colour, and curdy, and at other times parti coloured, and slimy. The flesh is flabby, the tongue white, and not unfrequently covered with ^{the} ~~aphæa~~ a ^bough, a rash about the body, and eruptions about the nose, mouth, and ears are common.

Before long, a considerable increase of fever occurs, every kind of food is loathed, the profligacy is greater, there is stupor, extreme emaciation, convulsions, and lastly, death.

The chronic stage of marasmus in children

comes on insidiously: there being at first merely an increase of appetite, a partial loss of animation, & a reluctance to revisit its usual hours. It soon loses all desire to engage in its wonted amusements, complains of chilliness, and has pains in the knees, and thighs. The breath becomes foetid; the tongue is white in the morning before eating; and the bowels are either regular, or loose. In a short time it is faint, drowsy, always disposed to sleep during the day, and when sleeping starts, and cries out as if from fear. A spasmodic cough towards evening is a common symptom. The appetite is good or bad, as the bowels are loose, or constive, the stools are slimy and greenish; the skin dry, the pulse hard and quick, especially, during sleep; the strength fails, the flesh gradually wastes, as

as the case advances, and the appetite, after frequent variations from good to bad, is at last completely destroyed.

An exposure to cold will now easily develop the acute form of the disease, which is now marked with symptoms of considerable fibrile excitement, and particularly at night, the child at this time is restless, has a hot, and dry skin, hurried respiration, and is much disturbed while asleep. There is often pain in the head, uneasiness of the stomach, and bowels, a white tongue, scanty, high-colored, and turbid urine, constipated, or loose bowels, and when loose, discharging slimy, or yeasty feces of a very offensive smell. As might be expected, the complexion at this stage is pale, and sallow; and the countenance languid, and sunken.

all of the symptoms enumerated will seldom or never be met with in a single case; and in some instances one or more of them will so predominate, that some other important disease, may be thought to exist. Now and then we will have all the symptoms of worms, or perhaps those of *Fabes Mesenterica*. In infancy *Maasasmus* may be readily confounded with the irritation from dentition, and not uncommonly with the Diagnostic symptoms of *Hydrocephalus Internus*. "The swelled, inflamed, and irritable state of the gums of infants," says Ryre, which is attributed to some natural difficulty in dentition, may be considered as a symptom only, and not as it is generally thought a cause of this complaint" concerning the strong resemblance of *maasasmus* in some instances, to *Hydroce-*

phalus Internus, the same distinguished writer, remarks "that he had been lead on a great many occasions to suspect that this fatal disease was commencing; and in two or three instances he had been induced to believe that it was actually present, and had been gratified to find by the result that he had been mistaken." There is, in fact, says he, often considerable difficulty, especially in infancy, to determine when the symptoms proper to Marasmus terminate, and those belonging to Hydrocephalus Internus begin; and it is frequently by the result alone, that an opinion of their nature can be formed.

Notwithstanding the difficulty in some cases, of forming a correct Diagnosis between these two complaints, Dr Ayre

believes that Hydrocephalus ^{Spurious} is limited to a certainty exists, where the child screams, carries his hand to the head, and desires to have it low, and to be pressed between the occiput, and forehead when there is delirium in the day, disproportioned to the fever, where there is double vision, or blindness, and a slow immittting pulse.

Pathology. Many suppose that Marasmus is dependant merely on a loaded, and constipated state of the bowels, but this opinion appears to be erroneous, and also inconcileable with the phenomena exhibited by the disease, and with the treatment found the most successful. The symptoms are always those of a disordered state of the chyle, viscera, and ~~the~~

we will find that the disease though relieved, yet can not be eradicated by the unloading of the bowels.

It is the opinion of Johnson, and of Ayre, that malnutrition depends on a deranged state of the alimentary canal, in which all of the chylotrophic viscera sympathize. Dr Ayre thinks the stomach may be disordered in its functions by a cause directly applied to it, and may induce derangement in the liver, or, that the stomach may become disordered by the like sympathies from a complaint in the Liver. It is doubtful, to what particular derangement of the stomach we should attribute an interruption, or irregularity in the functions of the Liver. It is supposed by Ayre, that the tough phlegm, which is always pre-

sent in the stomach, and bowls of those affected with hæmorrhoids have a greater power in aggravating, if not in producing it, and, he thinks, that this phlegm contributes to the exciting of the disease by its own morbid irritation, or by its interrupting digestion; by which the stomach is prevented from receiving that particular stimulus which is necessary to cause the Liver, and other subordinate organs to their full and proper action. This derangement of the stomach he thinks may communicate a morbid and imperfect stimulus to the Liver, whereby its secretion is impeded, and becomes of an unhealthy nature: that an interruption in the accustomed action of the Liver occasions a congestion of its vessels, and the diminished secretion of bile gives rise

to a congestion of the ~~Veins~~ ^{Veins} Portarum; that the congestion of these vessels can only be overcome by restoring the secretion; by a discharge of blood from the loaded extremities of the Vena Portarum, or by a hemorrhoidal flux.

Dr Chapman entertains an opinion with respect to this disease, corresponding very nearly with that of Dr Myre: he believes Marasmus consists in a strangulement of the alimentary canal, from a Stomachic Diathesis, in which all of the chylopoeitic viscera and a part of the lymphatic system sympathize.

The correctness of the latter opinion is evident on a Post Mortem examination, which discovers the intestines filled with vitiated feces, and a

thick, muco - the liver enlarged &
the lymphatic glands so tumefied,
and indurated, as evidently to have
prevented in a great measure the ab-
sorption of chyle, and a proper de-
gree of nourishment to the system.

Remote causes ~~are~~ The most common of
these, are cold, an improper diet, &
the impure air of crowded, or ill
ventilated situations. The fall,
from a predisposition acquired by
the previous heats of summer, is thought
to be the season, in which cold most
easily excites this disorder. One of the
most common causes of marasmus,
according to some of the most dis-
tinguished authors, is the withhold-
ing of the natural nourishment,

the milk of the mother, and loading
the infant's stomach with the most
indigestible articles of food. It may
be laid down, observes Ayr, as an
uncontrovatable fact, that during
the first six or eight months of an
infant's life, the only suitable food
for it is the milk of the mother; all
artificially prepared food, having
the strongest tendency to disorder
it, and producing, too commonly,
symptoms of a biliary derangement,
in their most marked, and fatal
form."

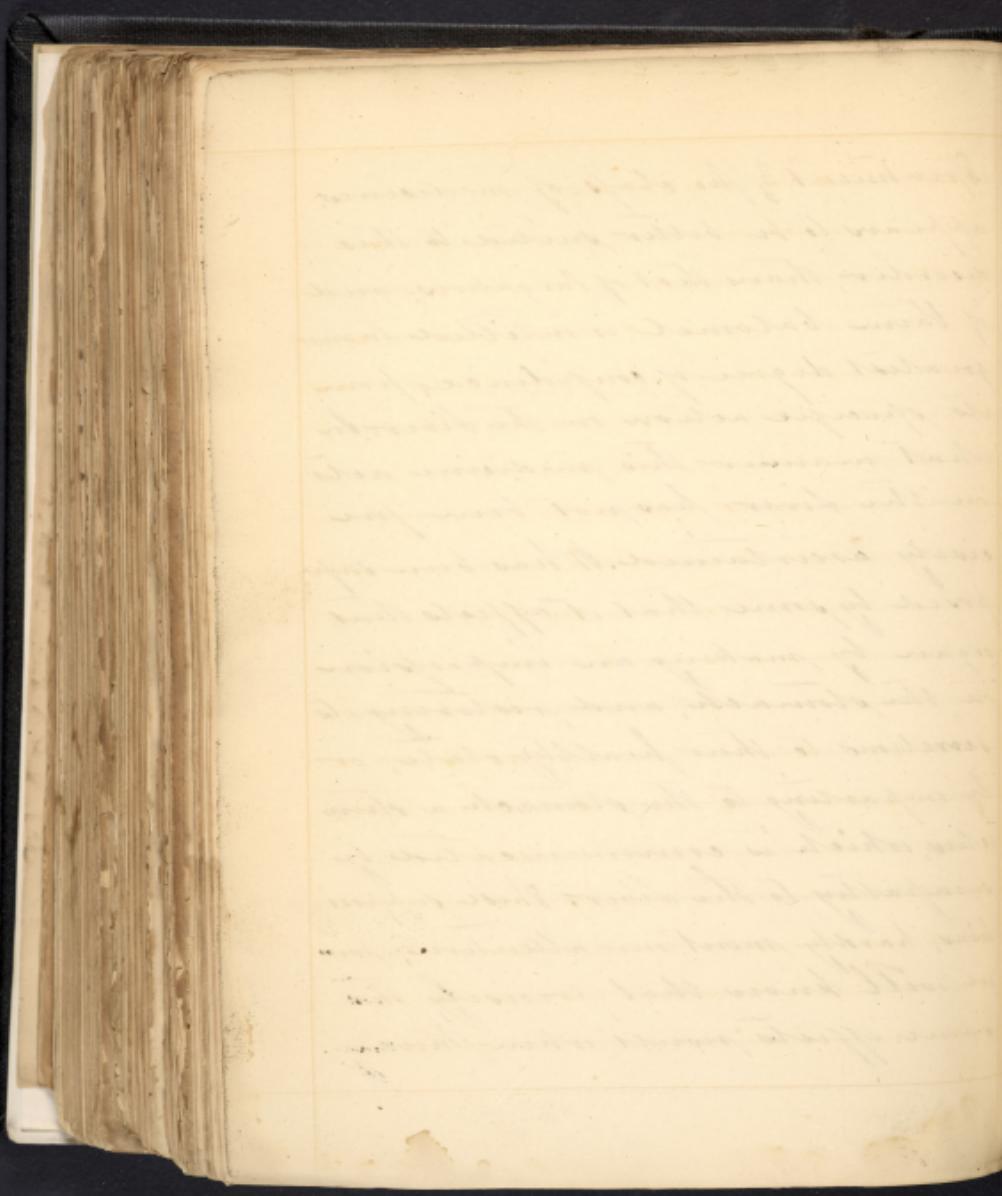
To support the correctness of this af-
fertion we have the authority of Dr. Hugh
Smith, who says it is a solemn truth
that almost every woman is capable of
supporting her infant; that confining it

gained the attention of the
committee. This committee decided to
call a meeting of the members of the
various clubs, and invited them to
attend. The meeting was held in
the hall of the New Haven Club,
and was well attended. The
meeting was opened with a
reading of the Constitution of the
club, and the election of officers
was then held. The following
officers were elected:
President: Dr. John Smith.
Vice-President: Dr. George
Brown.
Secretary: Dr. Charles
Foster.
Treasurer: Dr. John
Brown.
The meeting was then adjourned
until the next day.

altogether to her breast will prove
of the greatest advantage both to one
and to the other; and that every
day it will gain strength, and
at last cure ~~any~~ disease.

With the above mentioned causes
we may enumerate the giving of
Sandalum, and the too early
administration of aperients. The ap-
plication of tight bandages about
the abdomen, is said, to predis-
pose children to this complaint,
by compressing the parts within
the abdomen, and either interfe-
ring with their development, or
preventing them from performing
their natural functions.

Treatment of the claps of medicines, appears to be better suited to this disorder, than that of Purgatives; and of them Salomet is entitled to our greatest degree of confidence, from its specific action on the Liver. In what manner this medicine acts on the Liver has not been precisely ascertained. It has been supposed by some that it affects that organ by making an impression on the stomach, and restoring its secretions to their healthy state; or by imparting to the stomach a stimulus, which is communicated by sympathy to the Liver. These suppositions, hardly merit our attention; for we well know that precisely the same effects would, when given,



is applied to the skin.

The use of calomel, by the advice of Dr Chapman, should be preceded by some of the milder purgatives; but he recommends, where the disease is confirmed, that we should rely chiefly by an active, and frequent purging with this article. Daily purging, he says, instead of weakening invariably invigorates the child.

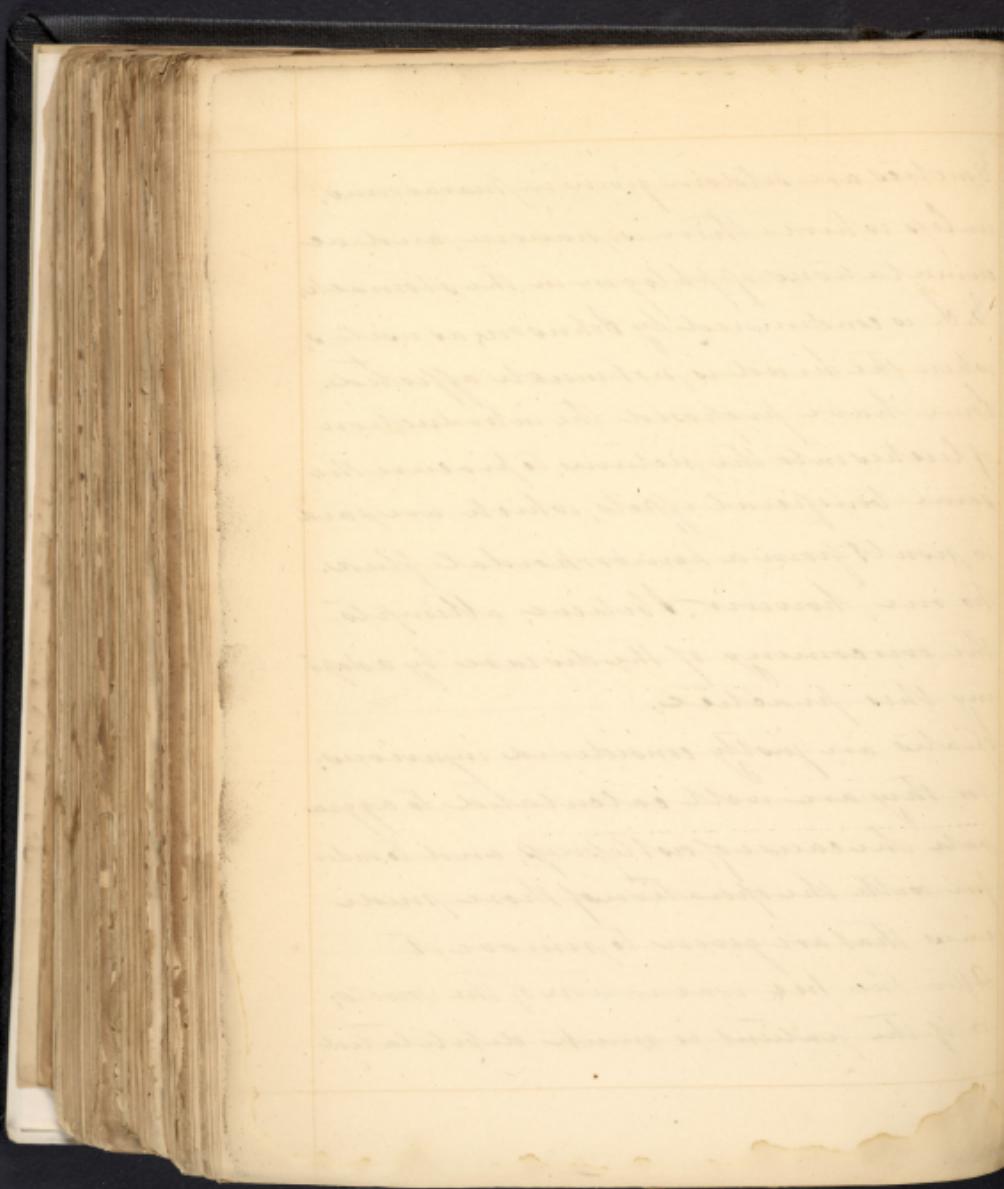
Dr Ayr differs a little, from Dr Chapman in the administration of calomel. The former says, that purgation consists in derangement of the liver, and that whatever irritation may be present in the bowels from morbid accumulations, this medicine is not usefully employed, as a purge; but that its

proper action being on the liver, medicines of a strictly purgative kind should be selected for their evacuation.

Balomel if given in a large dose, is well known to operate actively as a cathartic, and, therefore, it seems advisable that we should first employ it as recommended by Dr Chapman, and afterwards as is advised by Dr Myers. When the patient is convalescent, & the symptoms of Biliary derangement subside in a measure, or become stationary, mercurial fictions to the right side have been found more efficacious than an obstinate perseverance in the employment of balomels.

Emetics are seldom given in paroxysms, unless where there is nausea, and accumulations of phlegm in the stomach. V. S. is condemned by Johnson, as useless, when the head is not much affected. Some have proposed the introduction of leeches into the rectum, to procure the same beneficial effects, which are said to result from a hemorrhoidal flux. No one, however, I believe, attempts the overcoming of the disease by adopting this practice.

Opiates are justly considered injurious, for they are well calculated to aggravate the cause of restlessness, and to interfere with the operations of those medicines that are given to remove it. After the first evacuation of the bowels, or if the patient is much debilitated



tonics will be required. Dr Chapman speaks favorably of Bark, and the preparations of Iron, with small doses of Rhubarb to obviate constiveness, as auxiliary means of cure; the cold bath, warm clothing, and exercise will be useful. But of all things in the treatment of malacousness, nothing perhaps requires more attention than the diet. Every article of food should be easy of digestion, and ought to be given in moderate quantity so as not to oppress the stomach, whose powers are very imperfect.

No kind of nourishment is so good, in the opinion of Lyre, for infants, as the milk of the mother, and he tells us, that he has frequently

known the infants of the poor to perish, notwithstanding every attempt to save them, solely from their being deprived of the breasts of their mothers. To attempt then, he says, to relieve an infant from this disorder while it is deprived of its natural food, will be as fruitless, as it must appear unnatural.

